

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing the presence of breast cancer determining disease status of a patient suffering from a disease characterized by aberrant expression of one or more ErbB cell surface receptor complexes, the method comprising the steps of:

measuring directly in a patient sample an amount of Her1-Her-2 complex, Her2-Her3 complex, or both each of one or more ErbB cell surface receptor complexes;

comparing each such amount to its corresponding amount in a reference sample; and correlating differences in the amount or amounts from the patient sample and the respective corresponding amount or amounts from the reference sample, wherein an increase in the amount of Her1-Her2 complexes, or Her2-Her3 complexes, or both, indicates the presence of breast cancer in a patient to the disease status the patient.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said disease is a cancer and wherein said patient sample is a fixed tissue sample, a frozen tissue sample, or circulating epithelial cells.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]] wherein the amount or amounts of each of said Her1-Her2 or Her2-Her3 one or more ErbB cell surface receptor complexes are determined by the steps of:

contacting providing for each of said one or more Her complexes in said patient sample with a reagent pair comprising a cleaving probe having a cleavage-inducing moiety with an effective proximity, and with one or more binding compounds each having one or more molecular tags attached thereto by a cleavable linkage, the molecular tags of different binding compounds having different separation characteristics, such that the cleaving probe and the one or more binding compounds specifically bind to their respective complexes and the cleavable linkages of the one or more binding compounds within the effective proximity of the cleavage-inducing moiety are cleaved, thereby releasing one or more of the one or more molecular tags; and

~~mixing the cleaving probe and the one or more binding compounds for each of said one or more Her complexes with said patient sample such that the cleaving probe and the one or more binding compounds specifically bind to their respective Her complexes and the cleavable linkages of the one or more binding compounds are within the effective proximity of the cleavage inducing moiety so that molecular tags are released; and~~

separating and identifying the released molecular tags to determine the presence or absence or the amount of said ~~one or more ErbB cell surface receptor~~ complexes in said patient sample.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said patient sample is a said fixed tissue sample or a said frozen tissue sample.

6.-45. (Canceled)